Buckeye Volume 42, No. 6

Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

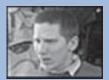
June 2003



Spc. Edgar Hernandez



Spc. Joseph Hudson



Pfc. Patrick Miller



Sgt. James Riley



Spc. Shoshana Johnson



Chief Warrant Officer David Williams



CNN)

by (

Chief Warrant Officer Ronald Young



POWs signed an oxygen panel commemorating the C-141 flight. The signed panel resembles the signed panel on another C-141, Hanoi Taxi. (Photo by Senior Airman Robert Sperling) Below, **Warrant Officer David** Williams signs the panel. (Courtesy photo)

A honorable flight returns POWs

By Maj. Ted Theopolos 445th AW/Public Affairs

Wright-Patterson C-141 Starlifter with medical personnel from the 445th Airlift Wing transported 48 wounded personnel — including seven held as prisoners of war in Iraq — to Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

The wounded personnel were taken to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center located near Ramstein for further treatment. Of the seven former POWs, five were from the 507th Maintenance Company that was ambushed along with Pfc. Lynch. Among the other 41 patients on board the Air Force Reserve C-141, 19 were

wounded during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I thought they were all heroes," said Tech. Sgt. Debra Beck, medical technician from the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. "We treated the POWs no different than anyone else on the plane."

"I think all of these types of flight are special," said Beck. "We enjoy spoiling everyone on board."

"It's standard to be served a hot meal during a long flight, but the crew purchased special food for the flight," said Beck. She was referring to serving American hotdogs and chocolate cookies to everyone on board. This wasn't the first time crews purchase special items for a flight; they served pizza on the mission before this one, stated nurse Maj. Bobbie Stemen, also from the 445th AES.

"It was a busy nine-hour flight with a lot of

wounded patients," said Stemen. "It was my time to serve them. The POWs weren't expecting anymore special treatment than we gave everyone else."

"Some patients were reluctant to ask for help, said Stemen, because of my rank." I was there to serve them and to make them comfortable as possible."

Beck mentioned helicopter pilot, Warrant Officer Williams,

stated, all POWs were so grateful for the American support. It meant the world to them.

Just before the plane started it's decent into Ramstein Air Base, Germany, the seven POWs signed an oxygen panel commemorating the flight. A suggestion from a pilot from Andrews AFB, whose crew was flying the aircraft. Some took photos of the momentous occasion. The signed panel resembles another signed panel on the Hanoi Taxi, the first C-141 to bring home POWs from Vietnam to Clark Air Base, Philippines.



Making a good hand-off

by Capt. Bill Dickens 445th AW/SeniorProtestant Chaplain

You may see me plodding around the base at the speed of sound (ok, it's a whisper). You probably can't tell this by looking at me, but I ran track and cross country in high school and college. All of this occurred many years and pounds ago. One of the events I ran in high school was the 3200-meter relay. Each person on the team ran 800 meters, which is the metric equivalent to the ½ mile.

Practice lasted for hours after school. We did stretching and running. But we spent a good portion of our time working on passing the baton. The single most important thing in a relay race is passing the baton. You can be the fastest person in the world, but if your hand-off is bad, you will lose the race.

This is true of life. With our children, with those who follow behind us, it is imperative that we hand them something of substance, something good, something lasting. The Apostle Paul "handed-off" to Timothy instructions on being a pastor: "Timothy, my son, I give you this instruction . . . so that by following them you may fight the good fight, holding on to faith and a good conscience." (I Timothy 1:18-19) Think of life from the eternal perspective, from God's vantage point and make a good hand-off to those who follow you.

The true price for freedom

by Brig. Gen. Rusty Moen 445th AW/Commander

was privileged to be the guest speaker at the Memorial Day Parade and ceremonies in West Liberty Ohio. Lt Col Dan Bratka, our 445th Inspector



General, and the current mayor of West Liberty invited me. It seemed like every person in this small "Heartland of America" town of 2,000 people was there to honor our fallen heroes. This year I believe many more Americans across our great nation took time to pause and reflect on the true meaning of Memorial Day.

Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on May 5, 1868, by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11, and was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. It wasn't until after World War I that it was expanded to honor those who have died in all American wars. In 1971 Memorial Day was declared a national holiday by an act of Congress. It was then also placed on the last Monday in May, giving many Americans a three-day weekend.

Since the late 50's on the Thursday before Memorial Day, the 1200 soldiers of the 3d U.S. Infantry place small American flags at each of the 280,000 gravestones at Arlington National Cemetery. They then patrol 24 hours a day during the weekend to

ensure that each flag remains standing. Similar ceremonies are held throughout America for Memorial Day is the one day each year that we set aside to reflect on the true price of freedom – the cherished lives of generations of young men and women in uniform. Their wars have been fought on many fronts, far from home – in the jungles of the south Pacific, the bloody beaches of Normandy, the icy slopes of the Korean Peninsula, the rice paddies of Vietnam, and more recently, the mountains and caves of Afghanistan, and the deserts of Iraq

At the Korean War Memorial on the National Mall are inscribed the words: "Freedom is not free." No one knows that more than the men and women who wear our nation's uniform. They (you) are well trained; dedicated, motivated, and prepared, if need be, to pay the ultimate price to secure the blessings of liberty. My thanks to the people of West Liberty for allowing me to be part of their Memorial Day.

As I write this column our first C-141 missions have already landed in Baghdad, with more missions to follow. Most of our aeromedical evacuation personnel have returned from overseas, having performed in an outstanding manner moving hundreds of injured personnel. But we have not seen any letup in the overall taskings for our aircrews and aircraft. Our aircrews have performed magnificently, enduring long crew duty days with many obstacles in their way to safely deliver the cargo that our war fighters on the front lines need. Maintenance has been working 12-hour shifts to fix and turn aircraft as fast as they arrive back to home station. Our Air Force senior leadership has been very vocal about the great job the C-141 community has done. My thanks to all of you here at Wright-Patterson and our two reserve wings at March ARB and Andrews AFB for making a difference.

Buckeye Flyer

445th Airlift Wing (U.S. Air Force Reserve Command) Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

U.S. Government Printing Office 3-00005-445AW

This funded Air Force Reserve newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the *Buckeye Flyer* are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, Department of the Air Force or Department of Defense. Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 445th Airlift Wing Office of Public Affairs. Photographs are U.S. Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated.

Editorial Staff

Brig. Gen. Rusty Moen.........Commander Maj. Ted Theopolos.......Director of Public Affairs Mrs. Mary Allen.....Public Affairs Assistant/Editor Maj. Richard Sater.....Chief, Internal Information Master Sgt. Douglas Moore......NCOIC/AV Master Sgt. John Klemack......NCOIC Staff Sgt. Charles Miller......Staff Writer Staff Sgt. Raquel Matthews....Audio-Visual Specialist SrA Chris Polites......Audio-Visual Specialist SrA Robert Sperling.......Public Affairs Trainee

President thanks 445th Airlift Wing reservists

By Senior Airman Robert Sperling 445th AW/Public Affairs

ine reservists from the 445th Airlift Wing met President Bush here at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, April 24, and four of them received his thanks for their work in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After a formal welcome by Gen. Lester Lyles, Air Force Material Command commander, and other high-ranking officers, the president was greeted by more than 250 Team Wright-Patterson people during his visit to Ohio. The crowd, with representatives from every command on base, included four Air Force Reserve Command aeromedical evacuation technicians who participated in the mission of returning former prisoner of war Army Pfc. Jessica Lynch to the United States.

"We were told the president was briefed that the four us were in the audience while Air Force One was taxiing into position," said Capt. Kimberly Sandusky, a flight nurse with the 445th AES.

After shaking hands with the welcome delegation, the president made his way toward the gathered crowd. Once there, he shook hands and spoke words of thanks as he worked his way through the group.

"Gen. Lyles made a point of directing the president to us," Sandusky said. "He was making sure that he didn't miss us.

"The president thanked me for what I did, and he really meant it. I saw the sincerity on his face and in his eyes," Sandusky said.

"He called me by my name," said Staff Sgt. Hans Jagow, a 445th AES aeromedical evacuation technician. "He said, 'Thank you, Hans."

While talking with the president, Sandusky and Senior Airman Heidi Johnston, an aeromedical evacuation technician, reached over to their shoulders and removed their squadron patch from their flight suits and presented the patches to him.

"This opportunity was the perfect way to tie up any loose ends for the mission



(Left to Right) Capts. Jim Kern and Kimberly Sandusky, Senior Airman Heidi Johnston and Staff Sgt. Hans Jagow, 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron present President George Bush with a squadron patch from their flight suits.

bringing the wounded home," said Capt. Jim Kern, a squadron flight nurse. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime chance to shake the hand of your boss."

Johnston echoed Kern's sentiments. "I was cleaning my house last night and then went to bed. Never in my dreams would I have guessed that when I woke I would be meeting the president of the United States," Johnston said.

Senior Airman Joseph Halbrook, a 445th AW life support technician, was standing toward the back of the crowd when a security person put his hand on Halbrook's back and told him to "get up there. This is a moment of a lifetime."

"I moved forward, and I got to shake the president's hand," Halbrook said.

All of the reservists said the opportunity to meet the president made their hard work worthwhile.

President George W. Bush waves to the gathered crowd at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, as he departed Air Force One. (Photos by Mr. Al Bright, 88th Air Base Wing, photographer)



Family support families

By Maj. Richard C. Sater 445th AW/Public Affairs

Reservists learn quickly to respect the triangle: military service, family obligations, and civilian employment. Each of its three points is important.

One of the biggest challenges for a reservist is maintaining the balance, particularly in the face of an unexpected mobilization or extended active-duty tour. The experience can be frustrating, even overwhelming, but the 445th Airlift Wing Family Support office is on hand to help.

"All three areas are important," according to 2nd Lt. Melissa Oakley, family support liaison for the 445th. "We fill in the space between the sides of the triangle."

The goal of the family support office is clear: letting the reservist know that the family will be taken care of in the event of a mobilization or deployment. The office serves as a resource for mobilized reservists and their families.

"It's a place you can come if you have a problem and you're not sure where else to go," says Staff Sgt. Angie Burritt, a reservist assigned to the office.

What kind of problems? Any kind. Questions about military pay, medical care or other benefits, family emergencies, education, childcare, car-care? The family support office can provide information, answers, or referrals to get the problem solved. The office is a resource for financial, legal, and emotional support if necessary. Another of its aims is to educate spouses about how to seek services or support within the local communities.

"We're here for reservists and their families," says Mikah Klemack, also assigned to the office. "We want people to consider us their first point of contact. If we can't help, we know somebody who can, and we might be able to cut through the red tape."

Part of the challenge is making sure that reservists and their families are aware of the help that the family support office can provide. On Sunday, April 12, Family Support held an orientation for spouses and family members of reservists who have been activated. "We have great support from the [active-duty] military and civilian communities here," Oakley says.

The orientation – which included briefings about medical care, military pay, employer support, and other concerns – was set up specifically to get the word out. "Our aim is to be proactive, not reactive," Oakley says.

The orientation also provided an opportunity for reservists' spouses to get to know one another. "It's networking. People get to know each other. We're here to help, but we hope they will help each other as well," Oakley says. Attendees asked questions and voiced their concerns as well. "We don't know what problems people are experiencing if they don't tell us."



Maj. Anne Gunter, 445th Mission Support Squadron Commander, assist the children with arts and crafts at the Family Support Information Fair.

Area organizations – civilian as well as military – set up displays explaining support available to the families of mobilized reservists. Representatives from the American Red Cross, United Way, the Miami County Job and Family Services, Tri-Care, Ohio State University, Wright-Patterson Spouses in Action, and the base Health and Wellness Center are just some of the agencies on hand to show what they have to offer families of activated reservists.

The success of the 445th's Family Sup-

port office has depended on a team effort. The office began to take shape in June, 2000, thanks in large part to the efforts of Mikah Klemack, who had just relocated to the area with her husband, then a newly assigned 445th reservist. There were minimal family support services available for 445th reservists at that time.

"I started coming in one or two days a week to set something up," Klemack says. "It snowballed from there, and now we're on the way to becoming a household name."

Klemack has volunteered more than 2,000 hours in addition to being a summer hire civil servant, ensuring that the office is equipped "to deal specifically with *reserve* concerns," she says. "It's working. We've established a great relationship with the active-duty support center, and that's helped us out tremendously."

The two offices on base share resources and responsibilities. The active-duty 88th Mission Support Squadron here maintains a food pantry, the Airman's Attic (to provide clothing, appliances, furniture and so on to those who are eligible), a computer lab, job search assistance, and more.

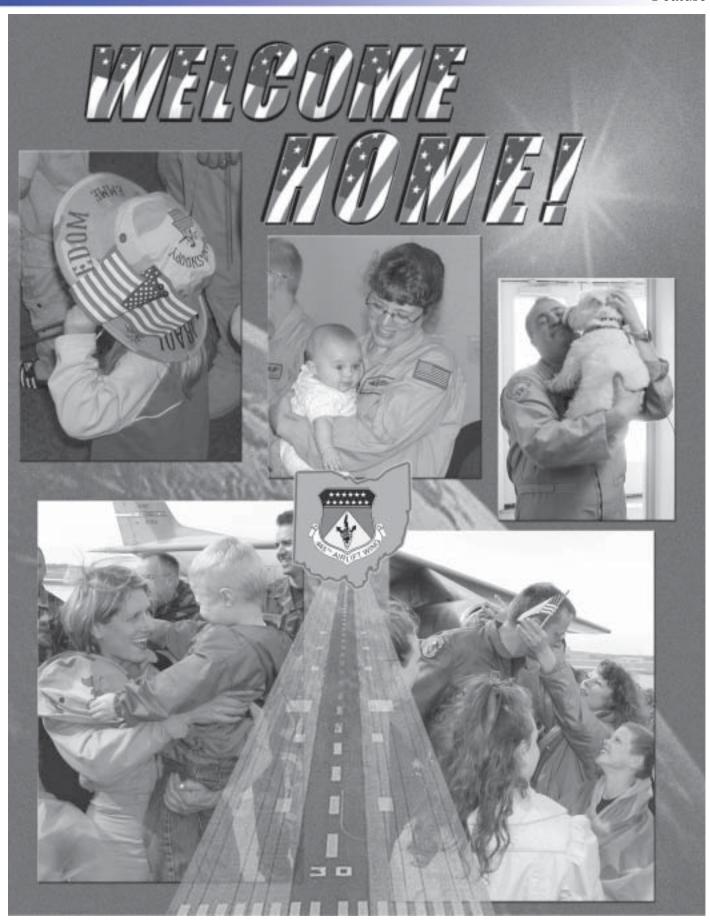
"We serve all the military" – reserve, national guard, active duty, any branch, according to Master Sgt. Tim Bower, family readiness non-commissioned officer for the 88th MSSQ The aim is true, ensuring deployed military members that "we'll take care of their families while they [the troops] are gone. They can focus on the mission better if they know their families are being taken care of.

"Even single reservists can come to us," he points out. "They tend to think that we only work with spouses, but your mom and dad or others in your family might need help too."

That help is but a phone call or visit away. The 445th Family Support office, located in Room 18 of Bldg. 4035 (the Military Personnel Flight headquarters) is open weekdays from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and during duty hours on drill weekends. Visit or call (937) 656-1502 or toll-free, 1-866-371-2316. For more information, visit the Internet: http://www.afrc.af.mil/445aw

The family support's mission is ongoing. Look for a family picnic later this summer, as well as continual communication via the *Buckeye Flyer*, brochures, e-mail, and regular mail.

4



June 2003

From daughter to parents

Story and Photo by Senior Airman Robert Sperling 445th AW/ Public Affairs

s Secretary of the Air Force James Roche and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper initiate the service-wide "Parent Pin" program May 5 to thank the parents of America's airman for their support of their children, a reservist from the 445th Airlift Wing's Safety office is presented his pin from his daughter on live local television.

Master Sgt. Larry Stultz, an Air Reserve Technician with the 445th Airlift Wing Safety office, was presented a "parent pin" from his daughter, Senior Airman Julie Weckerlein, 31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs, Aviano Air Base, Italy, during a live morning talk show on ICN 6 hosted by her mother, Tawana Thomas, in Covington, Ky.

Airman Weckerlein took time during the show to recognize how much her parents mean in her career as an active duty member serving overseas and Sgt. Stultz spoke on what it means to him to have his daughter following in his military footsteps.

Following the discussion Airman Weckerlein presented her father and mother with the envelopes containing the letter from Gen. Jumper and Secretary Roche and their pins. While her parents opened the letters, she described Your Guardians of Freedom and "Parent Pin" programs.



Master Sgt. Larry Stulz, 445th Airlift Wing, talks about what it means to him to have his daughter serving in the Air Force overseas. (Also pictured from right to left are Senior Airman Julie Weckerlein and her mother/host Ms. Tawana Thomas)

The show was viewed across northern Ky., and Cincinnati, Ohio regions. The morning show is followed by another talk show that is also hosted by Ms. Thomas and three others, during the second show Ms. Thomas wore the pin and the group talked more about the program.

The uniform doesn't change a thing

An aeromed comes to the rescue of a car accident victim

by Staff Sgt. Charlie Miller 445th AW/ Public Affairs



SrA HeidiJohnston

Recently, a 445th Airlift Wing member was in the proverbial right place at the right time with the right training.

Senior Airman Heidi Johnston, a member of the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron, was driving home just a few days after she had participated in the mission that transported U. S. Army Pfc. Jessica Lynch from Ramstein Air Base, Ger many back to the U.S. when she saw a

car flipping end-over-end on Interstate 270 in Hilliard, Ohio. "I saw this car in mid-air out of the corner of my eye and said

"I saw this car in mid-air out of the corner of my eye and said to myself 'That's not right,'" Johnston said.

Johnston, an aeromedical evaluation technician with AES, stopped, along with two other people who turned out to also be in the medical field, to help the driver, a 67-year-old man. She left the driver's side door of her car open and the engine running as she ran to the injured man. He had not been wearing a seatbelt and was ejected from his vehicle through the windshield. The man was lying close to the car that was leaking fluid and smoking.

"My first thought was 'is the car going to catch on fire'? -

then 'do we need to move this guy'?

Her Air Force Reserve training came into play immediately. "The ABC's are the first steps to assisting an accident victim; airways, breathing, circulation."

Johnston and the two other good samaritans began to administer first aid to the man, who was traveling alone. They found that he was still alive but had suffered severe head injuries along with other injuries. His breathing was shallow and he had a weak pulse. All three worked to stabilize him.

"He had deep lacerations and it looked like every bone in his body was broken," she said.

Within a few minutes, Hilliard police officers and emergency medical technicians arrived at the accident scene. Johnston continued to assist them as they treated the victim. She said his heart stopped at the scene but the EMT's were able to revive him before transporting to an area hospital. They believed the driver was diabetic and that he may have lost control of his car and wrecked due to medical complications associated with his illness. Sadly, the man did pass away at the hospital.

"My military training helped me, absolutely. I work in a Columbus area hospital emergency room and would have never been able to get the job if it weren't for my military training," said Johnston.

Welcome and Congratulations!

Promotions

Congratulations to the following personnel, recently promoted to the rank indicated.

Senior Airman

Ryan Begley, 445 SVS

Justin Bone, 445 AMDS

William Canty, 445 SVS

Casey Collard, 445 ASTS

Tawnya Durben, 445 ASTS

Toby Ellis, 87 APS

Pierrel Foxworth, 445 AMDS

Toron Franklin, 445 MXS

John McCreary, 445 CLSS

Brian Phillips, 445 CLSS

Jason Schrenk, 445 CLSS

Sarah Snider, 445 ASTS

Robin Spurlock, 445 MSS

Aaron Wainscott, 445 CLSS

Patrick Wolfe, 445 CLSS

Staff Sergeant

Lyle Bayless, 445 CLSS George Higgins, 445 MXS

Technical SergeantJohn Brice, 87 APS

Jennifer Gallinger, 445 ASTS Jeffrey Graham, 445 MOF Randy Knight, 87 APS Jeffrey Schneider, 445 AMXS Todd Walsh, 445 AMXS

Master Sergeant

Alan Berens, 445 OSS Freda Britain, 445 MOF Kelly Mobley, 445 AMDS Alberto Rivera, 445 AMDS Thomas Selner, 445 SFS Karl Weitzel, 445 MOF

First Lieutenant

Valerie Crane, 445 AES

Major

Daniel Rampton, 445 MXS

Reenlistments

Congratulations to the following 445th AW members who recently re-enlisted in the Reserve.

SSgt. William Kaczmarczyk, 445 ASTS TSgt. Sylvester Mickler, 445 AMXS TSgt. Douglas Orbas, 445 CES TSgt. Richard Price, 445 CES TSgt. Tracy Woodson, 445 CES MSgt. Pamela Brocklehurst, 356AS MSgt. Kevin English, 445 ASTS MSgt. Brenda Evens, 445 ASTS MSgt. Lisa Rodriguez, 445 AMDS MSgt. Kemberlee Scott, 445 CES MSgt. Timothy Young, 87 APS

Awards

Congratulations to the following 445th AW members who recently earned awards.

Meritorious Service Medal

Maj. John Clark, 445 OSS SMSgt. Johnny Cupp,445 ASTS MSgt. Robert Evans, 445 SVF TSgt. Robert Fishbaugh, 445 MXS TSgt. James Terhal, 87 APS

Air Force Commendation Medal TSgt. William Jones, 445 AES

Air Force Achievement Medal MSgt. Brenda Evans, 445 ASTS TSgt. Robert Carlow, 445 ASTS TSgt. Marva Gaston, 89 AS

Newcomers

Welcome to the following reservists, recently assigned to the 445th AW:

A1C Kelli Filson, 445 CES A1C Tara Hampton, 445 CLSS A1C Heather McCaig, 445 CLSS A1C Gregory Geisler, 445 SFS A1C Ryan Webber, 445 AMXS SrA Lauren Johnson, 445 ASTS SrA Gregory Myers, 445 ASTS SrA Jaime Dearth, 89 AS SrA Carol Jameson, 445 LRS SrA John Fenwick Jr., 445 CES SrA Michael Kinman, 445 AMXS SrA Bryan Bohn, 445 AW SrA Nicholas Spears, 445 LRS SrA Lorinda Rivero, 445 LRS SSgt. Christian Woolford, 445 AW SSgt. Joseph Prall, 445 CES SSgt. Craig Parker, 87 APS SSgt. Jeffrey Rogers, 445 CES TSgt. Peter Livoti, 445 AMXS Capt. Michael Ponder, 445 SVF Maj. Joseph Lawlor, 445 ASTS

Unit receives supporting hands

Children from the Oxford Early Childhood Center, a preschool in Oxford, Ohio, made their support known by making a banner to give to the wing. The kids wanted to show their support for the troops and let them know they don't have to be overseas to be appreciated. The banner was presented to the 445th Maintenance Squadron and is being displayed in Bldg. 4012.



The banner reads: To the men and women of Wright-Patterson AFB: Thanks for watching over us! We feel safer knowing that your close by. Keep up the good work! Love, The children of Oxford Early Childhood Center. The 445th Maintenance Squadron poses with the banner. (photo by Senior Master Sgt. David Imhoff, 445th Maintenance Squadron)

June 2003

Wing Notes

101 Days of Summer

May 26 marks the official start of the "101 Critical Days of Summer, " a time of increased risk of accidents, injuries and possible death, both on and off duty. Areas of particular concern are heat-related effects, highway safety, seatbelt usage, driving or boating under the influence of alcohol, water sports, motorcycle and all-terrain vehicle operations, and those risks unique to your missions and local environment. You can protect yourself, your family and your friends by being aware of those risks and taking precautions to aviod disaster. Last year, Air Force Reserve Command sustained one off-duty fatality during the 101 Critical Days of Summer.

Inventing flight July 3-20, 2003

The Wright brothers' hometown will buzz with excitement during the nation's premier summertime centennial of flight event - Inventing Flight: The Centennial Celebration, July 3-20, 2003. There will be something for everyone to enjoy during this rich collection of events and attractions.

Deeds Point, a 12-acre park overlooking the City of Dayton's downtown landscape at the Great Miami River, will be the convening site for much of the attractions. This site is being called "Celebration Central" and serves as the gateway to all Inventing Flight activities.

Although the hub of activity will be based at Celebration Central, activities will also radiate to a series of satellite locations and citywide events, conventions and ongoing exhibits that will all be a part of the Inventing Flight experience.

For more information concerning Inventing Flight go to their web site: www.inventingflight.com 445th Airlift Wing 5514 McCormick Road Wright-Patterson AFB OH 45433-5113



FIRST CLASS MAIL POSTAGE & FEES PAID USAF PERMIT NO. 1161

Serving with Honor

by SSgt. Charlie Miller 445th AW/Public Affairs

Perhaps the highest profile duty in the Air Force. It's not an easy duty to pull, but quite rewarding in its own unique way. Demanding perfection from start to finish. Living under a microscope while wearing the Air Force ceremonial uniform isn't easy.

What is this high profile position? The Honor Guard.

One such person is Tech. Sgt. Mark Lyle, 445th Aeromedical Staging Squadron, mental health technician as a reservist, on active duty with the Wright-Patterson AFB Honor Guard.

Recently Tech. Sgt. Lyle went to Michigan for a funeral of an active duty para-rescueman who perished in a helicopter crash in Kuwait. Senior Airman Jason T. Plite was his name from Lansing, Mich. He was a young man, a senior airman, just 21-years-old.

"This funeral detail was different with all the media being there. And with him being so young there was a very, very large funeral procession," said Lyle.

"There were eight police cars and four police motorcycles in the procession from the local government," Lyle added.

The Honor Guard from Wright-Patt helped comprise a 20-person honors funeral with a colors team, a firing party giving a 21-gun salute, pallbearers and a bugler. There was also a brigadier general present, Lyle said. Lyle served as a pallbearer.

Tech. Sgt. Lyle has served over 80 funerals, seven of which were for active

duty members.

All active duty honors ceremonies have 20-person teams while a retiree will have a ten-person team and a veteran, regardless of how much time they may have served, and in some cases it's less than two years, will have a 2-person team for the honors ceremony.

"I can't tell you how much I enjoy

what I do with the Honor Guard. So many have fought in the past and present so we can live the way we do and enjoy our lifestyles," said Lyle.
"Some were over there doing their job while in harms way, fighting to protect what we all believe

in. I'm actually not in harms way but I'll stop whatever I'm doing to pay them honor."

"I volunteered for this duty with the honor guard and plan to stay as long as they'll have me, " said Lyle. "It's important to honor those who served. It's the least I can do and I'm glad to be able to participate in their honors ceremony," Lyle stated.

Wright-Patterson's Honor Guard has participated in over 1,400 ceremonies each year and logged more than 230,000 miles throughout a six state area according to Master Sgt. Homer Carter, Honor Guard ARC Program Manager.

With the advancing age of WW II veterans, the honor guard is kept busy. Lyle averages about four funerals a week.

"It's extremely important that we have guard and reserve honor guard members to augment the active duty honor guard members," Lyle concluded.

